



Cross Beams

News from Cedarville U.M. Church
"Changing Lives with Jesus"

January, 2026

A New Year, the Same Faithful Mission

A new year always brings a mix of emotions. There is hope and excitement for what lies ahead, but also reflection on what has been, and perhaps a bit of uncertainty about what the future will hold. As we step into 2026 together, I am reminded that while calendars change, our calling as the church remains beautifully steady.

At Cedarville United Methodist Church, our mission is clear: ***Changing Lives with Jesus***. That is not just a slogan we display on signs or print in newsletters. It is a promise we live into, week by week, person by person, story by story.

In the year ahead, I invite you to keep our three guiding words close to your heart: ***Come. Grow. Share.***

Come: Come into worship expecting to encounter God. Come with your questions, your joys, your doubts, and your hopes. Come knowing that you are welcome here, not because you have it all together, but because God meets us exactly as we are.

Grow: Grow in faith, prayer, and trust. Growth does not always happen quickly or easily, but it always happens when we stay rooted in Christ. Whether through worship, small groups, serving, or quiet moments with God, every step toward spiritual maturity matters.

Share: Share the love and grace you have received. Share your gifts, your compassion, and your story. When we serve our neighbors, support missions, invite others into community, and live our faith beyond these walls, God uses our faithfulness to touch lives we may never fully see.



(Continued on Page 2)

As we begin this new year, my prayer is not that everything will be perfect, but that we will remain faithful. Faithful to Christ. Faithful to one another. Faithful to the work God has placed before us.

Thank you for being part of this church family. Thank you for the ways you have shown up, served, prayed, and given. I am excited to see how God will continue to work in and through Cedarville in the year ahead.

May 2026 be a year where we come closer to Christ, grow deeper in faith, and share God's love more boldly than ever before.

Pastor Mike

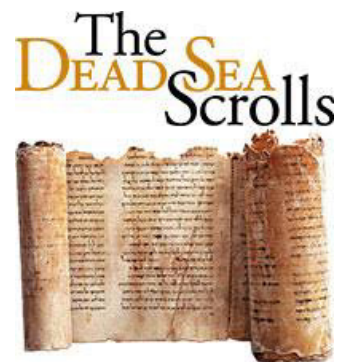
Pastoral Vacation Notice

Pastor Mike will be on vacation from December 25 through January 6. During this time, our Associate Pastor, Pat Goshert, will be available for pastoral emergencies and will be leading worship on Sunday, December 28 and Sunday, January 4. We are grateful for Pastor Pat's leadership and care during this time.



Join Us for an Inspiring Bus Tour!

Get ready for an extraordinary adventure as we set out to explore the Museum of the Bible and witness the awe-inspiring Dead Sea Scrolls! This is a rare opportunity to immerse yourself in history, uncover the fascinating stories behind some of the most treasured artifacts in the world, and enrich your understanding of enduring faith and cultural heritage. Join us to be inspired by the ancient mysteries, connect with fellow believers and explorers, and forge unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime. Don't wait—reserve your seat now and prepare for a journey filled with discovery, inspiration, and spiritual upliftment that will leave you feeling renewed and enlightened!



Interested? More information will be coming soon. The bus will leave Cedarville on April 1st at 7:30 a.m. and return the same day. Contact Denny Emrick (610-310-1631 or dennyemrick@gmail.com) for more information.

Brrrrrrrrrr – Cold Nights are Here! Winter Warmth Greatly Needed



Whether it's for emergency shelter, a warm blanket, dry boots or a winter coat, the Outreach Team and Mission First seek to help assist people survive the challenges of the severe winter season. To enable us do that, we are asking for donations toward this great need.

There are many ways you can help:

- **Winter Clothing Drive**

New & Used Winter Clothing can be dropped off in the FLC Lobby. We can use Men, Women, and Children's clothes. We predominately need Men's Medium & Large; however, many in our neighborhood need help.



- Coats, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Heavy Sweaters can be hung up on the coat rack
- Boots and sneakers can be left in the labeled Bin – *prefer sizes*

10 – 12

- Hats, gloves, scarves can be left in the labeled Bin

- **Mission First Emergency Relief Fund**

We don't know what this winter will bring, but we do know our neighbors will need help with warm housing and food. In order to serve this uncertainty, we have established a Dedicated Fund called the ***Mission First Emergency Relief Fund*** administered by our MF Director and the MF Operating Committee.



You can support this fund by contributing in the offering plate or online through either the CUMC Online Giving page or the Mission First website – Donate page. Make sure to select Mission First Emergency Relief.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors in need. Please know that someone's life will be greatly touched by your generosity. **Hope Starts Here** with an open hand reaching out to someone else.

Mission First Operating Committee & Cedarville UMC Outreach Team

“Code Blue Depends on You”

Mission First!

Here at Mission First, we are looking forward to 2026! We will continue our projects like gardening, distributing snacks and helping people set up apartments. We look forward to times of fellowship at our annual picnic and possibly another yard sale. Most of all, we look forward to distributing your generous gifts to a community who desperately needs them.

In December, we had some wonderful events to celebrate Christmas. Thanks to Mt. Carmel's pie donation and CMUC's contributions, we were able to give over 30 holiday boxes to needy families. At our Wednesday meal, we welcomed the New Ridge Fellowship youth and the Iron Mountain company. They provided a lovely meal and gift bags, along with coats, hats and scarves. First Baptist Church held a giveaway and provided sandwiches for everyone. Additionally, staff from the Governor's office and county officials visited to see some of Pottstown's problems first hand. Hopefully, we will look for ways to address them in 2026.

During this holiday season, we have been overwhelmed by your generosity with gift cards and other donations. Our hearts are full of love and gratitude to all who donated. As we move forward into the new year, we will still need donations for emergency housing; we are not quite done with cold weather yet. The clothing closet needs ski gloves, tarps to cover tents, ChapStick, razors, and foot powder. If you would like to help, come visit us on New Year's Day! We will be serving a meal and handing out coats. For more information, please call Clare at 610-326-0560 or email Clare@missionfirstpottstown.org.





Blanket Sunday

January 4, 2024

On this 1st Sunday of Epiphany, we celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the gifts they bestowed on Jesus as he lay wrapped in blankets secure in his mother's arms.

Many in our community are not warm, they do not feel secure, and not loved. Please help support the efforts of our Outreach Team and Mission First for our annual Blanket Sunday by bringing new or lightly used blankets with you to church. Our greatest need is full/queen size with a wool blend for our homeless friends.

Please lay them across the chancel rail and they will be blessed at the end of the service.

Every child knows the internal warmth of a security blanket, the warmth we receive from knowing our Lord Jesus Christ. Please help us to also share the physical warmth needed by so many. You may also donate online.

- Outreach Team & Mission First



Annual Town Hall Meeting Sunday, January 18, 2026

All members of Cedarville United Methodist Church are warmly invited to attend our Annual Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026, following worship.

That morning, we will gather for a One Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. During this service, we will welcome new members into our church family and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion together. It will be a meaningful time of worship, unity, and thanksgiving as we begin a new year in ministry.

Following the service, we will hold our Town Hall Meeting. During this time, we will recognize and thank those members of the Leadership Board who are completing their terms and welcome those who are beginning their service. The Leadership Board will also share highlights from 2025, outline goals for 2026, and provide a

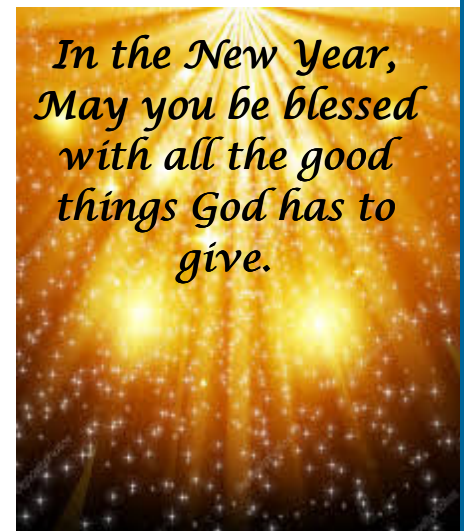
general financial update for the church.

We encourage all church members to participate in this important conversation.

If you have questions, concerns, or topics you would like the Leadership Board to address, you are invited to submit them in advance by email to LeadershipBoard@cedarvilleumc.com. These emails will be reviewed and addressed during the Town Hall meeting whenever possible, or earlier if appropriate.

Your presence and participation matter. This is an important opportunity to reflect on where we have been, celebrate what God has done, and look ahead together as we continue Changing Lives with Jesus. We hope you will plan to join us.

*In the New Year,
May you be blessed
with all the good
things God has to
give.*



COMMUNITY

LENTEN SERVICES
**Join Us for Mid-Week
 Lenten Worship!**

This Lent, our church is once again joining with **several local congregations** for a special series of **seven mid-week Lenten services**, leading up to a **Good Friday service**. These gatherings offer a meaningful opportunity to deepen our faith, reflect on Christ's journey to the cross, and grow in community with fellow believers.

The series will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM, here at Cedarville UMC**. Each following week, we will worship together at a different church. Through Scripture, music, and prayer, we will prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.



**Confirmation Classes
 Begin March 1, 2026**

Beginning Sunday, March 1, 2026, Cedarville United Methodist Church will offer a 13 week Confirmation Class for youth who are ready to explore the foundations of Christian faith and take the next step in their spiritual journey.

Throughout the program, participants will learn about the core beliefs of Christianity, the distinctive teachings of the Methodist tradition, and what it means to live as a committed follower of Jesus Christ.

Weekly classes will include engaging discussions, Bible study, hands on activities, and a meaningful service project that helps put faith into action.

Each Confirmand will be paired with a mentor from our congregation. Mentors will walk alongside students during the Confirmation process, offering guidance, encouragement, and support, and assisting them as they complete their service project.

At the conclusion of the program, participants will have the opportunity to affirm their baptismal vows and be confirmed as full members of the church during a special worship service.

If your child is in 7th grade or older and has not yet been confirmed, we encourage them to take this important step in their faith journey. Confirmation is a time to ask questions, grow in faith, and discover what it means to follow Jesus within the life of the church.

More information and registration details will be shared soon. If you have

questions in the meantime, please contact the church office.



**Bible Study Updates
 for the New Year**

7:00 Monday Evening Bible Study will resume on January 5. They will continue their study of "The Jesus I Never Knew"

10:00 Wednesday Bible study will resume on January 21. (third Wednesday). Stay tuned for the book we will be studying.

1:00 Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study will resume on January 7th. They will continue with their study of John.

5:30 Thursday Afternoon Bible Study will resume on January 8 and will continue their study of James, Peter, John & Judah by NT Wright.

9:00 Friday Morning Bible Study will resume on January 9. They will be studying the book, *One Small Step*, by Matthew Barnett.

Details of the Thursday 1:00 study will be announced soon.

Important Information Shared from Our Bishop regarding Children in Church

Dear Church Family,

This note is to bring your awareness regarding some disturbing information shared with the United Methodist churches. Predators have manipulated images of children sitting at the altar during children's messages.

While we are confident this has not happened at Cedarville, we are committed to creating a safe and welcoming space for all who worship with us—especially our children. Because of this concern, we will modify how we live stream moments in worship where children are featured. In other instances, we will not broadcast services that are fully focused on children, such as the Christmas Eve Family Service or Children's Sunday.

We want our children to be able to participate freely, and to simply be children during worship. Thank you for your understanding.



Save The Dates! VBS 2026 will be held Jul 6 - 9 (Monday - Thursday evenings).

As you make plans for the New Year, we hope you will consider setting this time aside for the kids in your life!

All children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade in Fall 2026 are welcome. Spread the word!



YOUTH ROOM CLEANUP

The Youth Room needs a bit of attention. I would like to find a small team of people who would be willing to assist me in cleaning it up. The work would be done for the purpose of making the space neater and usable by a small group if needed and also keeping it more presentable for use by a future Youth Group. The work would involve general cleaning and organizing. This work would commence in January. Anyone who is interested in being involved should contact Cindy Cebular 610-517-2471



Grateful & Blessed

We would like to share a very heartfelt and sincere thank you to everyone who helped make this Christmas season special in our church. From decorating the sanctuary to providing beautiful and meaningful music, it was all greatly appreciated. Whatever talent each person shared, the results were a gift and a blessing to experience. Thank you,
Judy & Pete Culshaw

Thanks to Cookie Bakers

Thank you to all the cookie bakers for your amazing gift assortment of cookies for the Live Nativity. Leftovers from your generous donation have been frozen and will be shared with 150 families receiving the January Mission First community meal.
2025 Cookie & Cocoa Team

Thanks to Worship Enhancement Team

A big thank you to the worship enhancement team for the beautiful display during Advent, where the theme was, "The Doorway to Christmas". The door and each Sunday's addition to the scene was a wonderful enhancement to the worship services. A special thank you to Richard Work for writing the Advent readings each Sunday and thanks to all the families and individuals who participated in the Advent Wreath Candle Lightings.

Thank You - Continued

Thanks to everyone who donated Poinsettias for the Christmas services.

Thanks from Congregation Family Members:

Please accept this donation in gratitude for you providing access to your service by telephone. This was the first time I needed to use this service this year, but it is comforting to know it is available.

Sincerely,
Esther Scheidt

To: Cedarville Women's Fellowship

Thank you for the generous gift you presented to me at Christmas. It is gratefully appreciated!

Steve Krasley

Dear Cedarville Women's Fellowship,

Thank you so much for your very kind gift to me at Christmas! I appreciate your thinking of me at this time of year, and appreciate your generosity. Also, thanks for all the gifts and cards I received for Christmas.

Susan Morris

Thank you to the congregation for all the gifts and cards I received during the holidays.

Pastor Pat

Walter Mouse Devotional

Genesis 19:17...Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!

Happy
Newyear

Now that the new year is almost under way, a group of us were talking about New Year's Resolutions. Most resolutions seem to aim at giving up something pleasurable, but perhaps unhealthy or burdensome. One woman, tired after working all day and keeping up with housework and childcare, said something about her "New Year's Revolution." We all had a good laugh at that, but it actually made sense. If we're really going to do something new, we do need to turn completely away from the old and face the new. We have to literally turn our backs on what we're leaving behind and fully embrace what we're moving toward. What's your New Year's Revolution?

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The Star, the Feather and the Child

By Fr Mark Skelton

On single feather, soft as dust, glides slowly through this sacred space, to fall before the young girl who, has heaven reflected in her face.



The boy is born and laid to rest, In wooden byre, in borrowed place; but years from now, more wood, a hill, a borrowed grave, a source of grace.

Yet now, one star shines from the dark, to mark the path which all can trace. So shepherds smile, innkeepers come, and wizards kneel, their gods displaced.

This star, the child, the father's touch, are token of a Father's grace. And with these gifts this Father heals, redeems the history of our race.



January Worship Helpers

Worship Leaders 8:00

4 – Anna Taylor
11 – Pat Goshert
18 – One Service- 10:00
Sanctuary (Town Hall
following Worship)
25 – Judy Pfeffer

Worship Leaders 11:00

4 - Vicki Miller
11 – Betsy Wright
18 – Elaine Lambert (for
10:00 service in the
Sanctuary)
25 – Lisa Harner

9:30 Scripture Readers

4 – Susan Paravis
11 – Lorne Kingsley
18 – One Service –
10:00 Sanctuary
25 – Marilyn Knight

Ushers 8:00 Worship

4 – Will Knox
11 – Saritha Devathala,
Eliza Mann & Denise
Reagan
18 – One Service, 10:00
25 – Gale & Glenn
Nester

Ushers 9:30 Worship

TBA

Ushers 11:00 Worship

4 – Jay Wright, Eric &
Kristyn Kaari
11 – Jay Wright, Judy
Lupas and Doug Carlson

CedarKidz/Cedar

Tweenz

4 – Diane Cherico
11 – Sandie Armstrong
18 – Crissy Fiorani
25 – Susan Morris

Children's Message

4 – Diane Cherico
11 – Sandie Armstrong
18 – Caleb Work
25 – Susan Morris



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Contemporary Worship
Director

Kathy Ballein

Chancel Choir Director

Lori Snavelly

Hand Bell Choir Director
Tom Lambert Cedarville
Brass Director